

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. SOEJIMA et al
Serial No. 10/041,578
Filed: January 10, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2187
Examiner: N. Moazzami
For: VOLUME MANAGEMENT METHOD AND
APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 21, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application
as follows.